Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

Summer 2008

FUNDAMENTALS

Newsletter for Friends of Irish Studies

Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

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1590 Dr. Penfield Ave.
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Developing Irish Studies - The Johnson Chair

$3 million Endowment for Johnson Chair will be Impetus for Growth of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia
$2 million from Government of Quebec $1 million from Concordia University Foundation

Daniel Johnson thanks the CISF as Michael Di Grappa, Brian O'Neill Gallery and Jean Charest look on.

The announcement on St. Patrick's Day by Premier Jean Charest of a $2million donation to the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, with an additional $1million provided by the Concordia University Foundation, heralds the beginning of a new and expansive period in the development of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University. The Johnson Chair will attract a high-profile scholar who will play a central role in building on cross-disciplinary research currently being done in the field at Concordia.

Power Corporation Donates $50,000 Towards the Capital Campaign

Montreal's Power Corporation has donated a landmark $50,000, bringing the Capital Campaign total to $325,000, just $75,000 shy of its goal of $400,000. Brian O'Neill Gallery thanks Power Corporation for its continued support and asks others to continue to donate so that Canadian Irish Studies can develop to its full potential and reach its goal of becoming financially secure for future generations.

Financial Overview

The Foundation had another successful year in 2007 with net revenues of $305,351 before the unrealized loss on the value of the marketable securities portfolio. This compares to net revenues of $216,542 in 2006. In the first three months of 2008 net revenues were $108,650.

In 2007 new accounting standards required the Foundation to record its marketable securities at market value rather than cost. This resulted in an initial one time adjustment of $1,033,737, increasing the marketable securities and the Fund balances as of January 1st, 2007. As a result of the declining stock market there were unrealized losses of $323,718 and $171,138 in 2007 and the first three months of 2008 respectively in the financial statements of the Foundation under the new standards. As the stock market recovers, these losses will be reversed.

The market value of the securities at March 31, 2008 was $3,469,231 compared to $3,501,031 at December 31, 2007.

Distinguished Scholar Donates Irish Book Collection to Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia

Dr. Ann Saddlemyer is donating her very impressive library of Irish scholarly books to Concordia's Centre for Canadian Irish Studies. The Ann Saddlemyer Irish Studies Collection, consisting of literary and critical texts, as well as rare books on Irish drama, will form an important research resource for students of the Irish literary tradition in the twentieth-century. The first installment of books has already been received by Concordia, with further installments to follow.

Ann Saddlemyer

Dr. Saddlemyer is the preeminent Canadian scholar in Irish Literary Studies and is a leading international authority on Ireland's Abbey Theatre and the works of Synge, Lady Gregory and Yeats. She has also played a central role in the development of contemporary Canadian drama. Her list of awards and publications is long and varied. In 2000 Concordia University conferred an Honorary Degree on Ann Saddlemyer, one of several she has received.

To recognize the pioneering role that this eminent Canadian scholar has played in the field of Irish Literary Studies and to acknowledge her generosity to Concordia, the Centre for Canadian Irish Studies will establish an annual public lecture named in her honour, and Professor Saddlemyer has graciously agreed to inaugurate this lecture series on October 16, 2008.

Scholarships Available in Canadian Irish Studies

Scholarships at The Centre for Canadian Irish Studies have been increasing thanks to the generosity of our donors. The annual funding available to undergraduate and graduate students is now $22,750.

Scholarship Name	Amount
St. Patrick Society	$5,000
Irene Mulroney	$2,500
Fr. Shaun Gerard McCarthy Govenlock	$1,500
Fr. Thomas Daniel McEntee	$1,500
Matthew Hamilton Gault	$1,250
J. Armand Bombardier	$1,000
Mary Hurley	$1,000
Geraldine O'Loghlin Stanford	$1,000
Stephen Dowd	$1,000
City of Montreal	$1,000
United Irish Societies	$1,000
Irish Protestant Benevolent Society	$750
Moira Ann Snow	$750
Taugher Family Bursary	$500
Edna Amy McConkey Soden Bursary	$500
Maurice "Moe" Malone Bursary	$500
Thomas D'Arcy McGee	$500
Sir Arthur Meighen	$500
Timothy Edward McIninch	$250
Gerard Keyes	$250
Mary Travers	$250
Sean Tracey	$250
Francis Hincks	$250

Support from Irish Protestant Benevolent Society Continues to Grow

Following on its creation of the Mathew Hamilton Gault Scholarship, the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society, under the dynamic leadership of Brian Mitchell, has increased its support of Canadian Irish Studies. The IPBS created a second scholarship, and recently approved a donation of $5,000 to be added to the original amount of $10,000. This endowment of $15,000 will fund the annual $750 Irish Protestant Benevolent Society Scholarship in Canadian Irish Studies.

Meanwhile, 2008 saw the inauguration of the Annual Irish Protestant Benevolent Society Lecture in Canadian Irish Studies. This lecture series was created specifically to address issues related to the Irish Protestant traditions in Ireland and in the Irish Diaspora, especially in Montreal and Canada. The inaugural lecture by distinguished historian, Dr. Kerby Miller (University of Missouri), launched another new and successful collaboration between the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society and the Centre for Canadian Irish Studies. The Society's incoming President, Mike Nelson, introduced the lecture by saying that he looks forward to building on the relationship with Canadian Irish Studies.

St. Patrick's Society Honours Chair of Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

The St. Patrick's Society of Montreal has named Brian O'Neill Gallery a Lifetime Member of the Society. This honour was granted to recognize Mr. Gallery's "tradition of service and generosity" and "the proud heritage [he has] honoured both in public and private life." In particular, the Society acknowledged Mr. Gallery's "exceptional accomplishments in promoting the development of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University."

Niall O'Dowd to Give Annual St. Patrick's Society Lecture

Niall O'Dowd

The Annual St. Patrick's Society's Lecture for 2008 will feature journalist and author Niall O'Dowd, a leading member of the Irish-American community. Mr. O'Dowd's lecture, "The Multiple Voices of Irish America," will take place on Friday, September 19th at Concordia's J.A. de Sève Cinema.

Born in Thurles, County Tipperary, Niall O'Dowd moved to the United States in 1979. He soon launched *Irish America* magazine and the weekly *Irish Voice* Newspaper (combined circulation of 350,000). Active in various political arenas, including extensive involvement in the negotiations leading to the Good Friday Agreement, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by his alma mater, University College Dublin in 2004, and in January 2008 was appointed an Adjunct Professor at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

St. Patrick's Society Elects New President

The Canadian Irish Studies Foundation congratulates Alistair O'Hara on his election as President of the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal. Alistair outlined an ambitious programme of events for the coming year, to be undertaken by the new Executive Committee. The Canadian Irish Studies Foundation wishes him a successful and rewarding term of office.

St. Patrick's Society Fundraising Cruise

The St. Patrick's Society of Montreal is planning a harbour cruise in September to introduce potential new members to the Society. For more information contact Erin Matheson on (514) 481-1346.

Poignant Trip to Grosse Île

The Centre for Canadian Irish Studies recently organized a field trip for students, faculty and others to Grosse île and the Irish Memorial. The trip featured a guided tour of the site by pre-eminent scholar and historian of Grosse île, Marianna O'Gallagher, as well as the playing of two Irish laments by Visiting Scholar, Dr. Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin. More than 50 people participated.

New Courses in Several Disciplines This Fall

Canadian Irish Studies will add several new courses to its offerings for the fall semester including courses on Irish Theatre, Political Science and History. Some of these courses will be taught by visiting scholars, Dr. Linda Cardinal (University of Ottawa) and Dr. Katie Gough (University of Glasgow). Below is the full list of courses available for the 2008-2009 academic year. For further information: (514) 848-8711, cdnirish@alcor.concordia.ca, www.cdnirish.concordia.ca

2008-09 Courses:

Modern Irish • Introduction to Irish Film • Contemporary Irish Literature • 20th Century Irish Drama • 20th Century British and Irish Literature • Nationalism & Ethnicity: Ireland & Canada • Politics and Identity Debates in Ireland and Québec • Celtic Christianity • Introduction to Canadian Irish Studies • Early 20th Century Irish Plays I: Dramaturgy • The Irish and African Diasporas in the Atlantic World • Women, Nationalism, Civil Rights: Case Studies from Northern Ireland and the Southern U.S. (1955-1969) • James Joyce • History of Ireland • Early 20th Century Irish Plays II: Scene Study

Prestigious Public Lectures and Events in 2008

The Irish Public Lecture Series has continued through the spring and summer, beginning with David Wilson's lecture to a full house on his newly-published biography of Thomas D'Arcy McGee. Following his lecture, a special event took place to acknowledge the installation of the D'Arcy McGee lintels in Concordia's new EV building. Through the generous support of Brian Gallery and the St. Patrick's Society, Concordia Archivist Nancy Marrelli revealed the wreath of shamrocks that graced the front door of McGee's house for many years.

Dr. Wolfgang Zach, Head, Department of English at the University of Innsbruck, delivered a lecture on May 15th called "Jonathan Swift and the Anglicisation of Ireland." During his visit to Concordia Dr. Zach met with Liselyn Adams, Vice-Provost, International, to explore the possibility of closer collaboration between his Centre for the International Study of Literatures and Concordia's Centre for Canadian Irish Studies.

Date	Event
September 19	St. Patrick's Society Lecture by Niall O'Dowd, Founder of The *Irish Voice* Newspaper and *Irish America* Magazine.
September 24	Writers Read at Concordia reading by novelist Tom Keneally, Man Booker Prize-winning author of *Schindler's List*.
October 3	Public Lecture by Dr. Michael Cronin, Director of the Centre for Translation and Textual Studies, Dublin City University
October 3	Inaugural Ann Saddlemyer Lecture by Dr. Ann Saddlemyer, Former Master of Massey College, University of Toronto and Former Director of the University of Toronto's Drama Centre.
October 29-30	Two-day Canadian Irish Studies Colloquium by Dr. Christopher Murray, Former Director of the Drama Centre, University College Dublin.
November 6	Poetry reading and lecture by Dr. Louis de Paor, Irish Poet and Director of the Centre for Irish Studies, National University of Ireland, Galway
November 13	Public Lecture by Dr. Nessa Cronin, Centre for Irish Studies, National University of Ireland, Galway.
November 20	Public Lecture by Dr. Katie Gough, Visiting Scholar, Canadian Irish Studies, Concordia University, Lecturer, Department of Theatre, Film and Television, University of Glasgow
November 28	Seventh Annual Neil Willard Lecture by Dr. Linda Cardinal, 2008 Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar in Canadian Irish Studies, Chaire de recherche sur la francophonie et les politiques publiques, Université d'Ottawa.

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